

~~Boston~~ Lewis Tappan

Jan. 20, 1845

New York, January 20/45
Monday am.

Dear Brother Phelps,

Yours of the 15th. was received this morning.

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You have stated our arrangement more accurately than I did, but in our correspondence you have mentioned the Spring frequently & therefore I had it in my mind that you were to afford aid, or rather assume the burden, till Spring - of course if your health permitted.

By the extracts in your letter it seems that I understood the term to be from 13th of August, 6mo., which will end 13th February. In your letter, just rec'd., you seem to have considered that the term ended 13th January.

I have supposed all along that before the term should expire you would decide definitely, having in my mind that the "term", and "spring" meant the same thing with you. I have never purposed trying an experiment till January, & then deciding whether to continue it or not till Spring, tho' I supposed the term would include only 6 papers, and that I should pay you at the rate of \$500 per ann. until you determined at the end of the term or in the Spring.

Considering the state of your health, and regarding your wishes, we will consider your engagement with me at an end. No paper will be issued until some permanent arrangement shall be made. It is out of my power, for reasons already stated to you, to have any responsibility respecting the papers resting upon me for the present - and until my partner returns, which will not be before March if so soon. I must have the papers suspended, but it is unavoidable.

In stating how it struck my mind, about your relinquishing your partner I could not, of course, undertake to say what your duty was. I only meant to state my own opinion, from the best light I have upon the subject. You are, of course, far better able to judge of your duty in the matter than I am.

I suppose that the papers, the Convention &c. could be got along with without your being here before May, but I have been anxious to be rid of the labour & responsibility of conducting the correspondence & conversation &c. meantime. All these matters are more than editing the papers.

With regard to a weekly paper I will consult two or three persons and probably write you further.

You do not mention recy a copy of the Reporter or a bundle of newspapers, or copy returned. Truly, yours Lewis Tappan

L. Tappan,

Jan. 20, 1845.